

Loudoun County Government
DISABILITIES SERVICES BOARD

MINUTES

July 6, 2010

MEMBERS ATTENDING: Frank Lombardi, Ken Shipman, Tim Tozer, Lovely Lall, Julian Murray.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anjan Chimaladinne, Tom Wlodkowski, Joe Granata, Angela Shirazi, Liz Mills, Rowe Leathers.

INACTIVE MEMBERS: Greg Conrow

STAFF: Catherine Motivans, ADA Coordinator

PUBLIC: Tracee Garner (LEND); Rowena Beatty (Special Recreation Advisory Board); Darcy Swope; Trent Carbaugh.

Ms. Swope and Mr. Carbaugh introduced themselves to the DSB. They just received 501(c)(3) status for Birds of a Feather Art Studio and School, a public charity providing visual arts experience that integrate learning, history, nature-appreciation and humane education. Their goal is to guide, inspire and support “under-served” people of all ages, disabilities and abilities as they discover within themselves an artistic voice.

Catherine Motivans indicated that she would place a link to Birds of Feather from the DSB website.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Frank Lombardi called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

This issue was tabled due to a lack of a quorum

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. DSB Priorities

Frank Lombardi started the discussion by asking the DSB members to discuss the following three DSB priorities: (1) transportation; (2) advocacy; and (3) awareness. Julian Murray commented that he noticed the Loudoun County long-haul bus service does not prominently display seating preferences for persons with disabilities. Julian will

follow-up with the bus service to determine its policy with regards to persons with disabilities.

The DSB members then discussed the advantages of forming a partnership or other similar arrangement with the public school system in order to raise awareness. While the members agreed that this idea sounds promising, it was agreed to table discussion until the October retreat/planning session.

The DSB members also discussed ideas for increasing youth involvement in the disability community. Frank suggested that we explore the possibility of forming a parallel Youth DSB that would operate in parallel to the existing DSB. Catherine Motivans will look into the idea of possibly appointing a member of the community as a Youth Liaison to the DSB.

Frank provided the following recap of the discussion:

1. Actions for DSB Retreat: Discuss Youth DSB or Youth Liaison to the DSB; look into holding the retreat at Birds of a Feather (need to confirm this at August DSB meeting—need to ensure facility is accessible). The DSB members discussed the pros and cons of inviting non-DSB members to the retreat or to solicit ideas from certain groups prior to the meeting. The members agreed that the meeting would only be for DSB members and we would not solicit any input from any particular group(s) prior to the meeting.
2. Frank Lombardi will contact Supervisor Burk to inquire as to the various programs, events, etc. that the public schools are currently doing with regards to raising disability awareness.

B. DSB Annual Report

Talking points will be drafted by Joe Granata and Frank Lombardi to draw up a formal report to Administrator Hemstreet when he attends his first DSB meeting.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Disability Resource Fair

Frank will finalize the handouts. Catherine will obtain the guide to Loudoun County Services. Catherine indicated that Liz Mills had dropped off the candy and candy bowl for the DSB display table.

B. ADA Poster Contest

LEND received twenty-three posters that were displayed in the County Government Center June 22 through July 16. The judging is complete, but the final votes still need to be tallied.

Ken Shipman stated that one grand prize winner will be announced at the ADA Gala on July 24.

To Do:

1. Catherine will draft a letter to each of the judges. The letters will be signed by LEND and the DSB.
2. Frank and Tracee will draft/print certificates of participation for judges.
3. Tracee Garner will provide frames for certificates.
4. Thank you letters will be sent to everyone who submitted posters. Catherine will draft a letter to all but three finalist; Tracee will draft winners' thank you letters.
5. A thank you letter will be mailed to the teacher whose class all of the posters were submitted. Tracee asked Catherine to extend an invite to the teacher.

Frank Lombardi suggested holding a brief "lessons learned" discussion regarding the poster contest at the August 3 DSB meeting.

C. Shining Star Award

Frank is nearly finished with the Shining Star awards for Safeway staff. Frank spoke with the manager of the Safeway and they agreed to distribute the awards at the Safeway. Frank and the manager will contact the media.

V. STAFF REPORT

Catherine reported that Tim Hemstreet, the new County Administrator, is still planning on attending the August 3 DSB meeting.

There is a transportation meeting at Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) meeting at VRTA on August 10. Catherine reminded the DSB members that this is a follow-on meeting to the one she and Tom Wlodkowski attended in the Fall of 2009 and an opportunity for transportation needs of people with disabilities to be expressed, so that providers can work to improve transportation option in this year's grant applications. Catherine stated that the New Freedom Grant only requires a 5% match.

Catherine provided another report on the Code Enforcement Complaint Form. She indicated that she trying to determine the process for recording these complaints based on how old the building structure is.

Catherine also provided a report on the Active Citizen Request (ACR) database, which is a compilation of citizen requests. Catherine reported that, after discussions with the database manager, the database would not be helpful to the DSB because there is no field/category to input requests dealing with disability issues. Catherine will inquire as to whether the database manager will attend a future DSB meeting to answer board members' questions.

VI. Other Business-Announcements

Frank noted that he has experienced, and noticed, problems with the Town of Leesburg blocking access to sidewalks with road closed signs. Frank indicated that due to the placement of the signs, persons in scooters or other mobility devices are unable to use the sidewalk. Catherine told Frank that he should contact John Wells about the issue.

A motion to adjourn was passed at 9:10 p.m.

Next Meeting: August 3, 7:00 p.m.